

Key Terms and Definitions for SAIS Reporting of Free and Reduced

No Child Left Behind:

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is the most recent version of federal K-12 education legislation. NCLB marks a different approach from previous legislation by demanding that schools must show results, teachers must be prepared to teach, progress must be measured every year, and schools that need to improve will receive additional support.

The NCLB Act was established to strengthen Title I accountability by requiring states to implement statewide accountability systems covering all public schools and students. Assessment results and state progress objectives must be broken out by poverty, race, ethnicity, disability, and limited English proficiency to ensure that no group is left behind. School districts and schools that fail to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward statewide proficiency goals over time will be subject to:

- Improvement measures
- Corrective action
- Restructuring aimed at getting them back on course to meet the standards

Schools that meet or exceed AYP objectives or close achievement gaps will be eligible for State Academic Achievement Awards.

Title I:

Title I is a federal program providing financial assistance to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of economically disadvantaged children. This funding is to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards.

Title I funds will be targeted to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. Schools enrolling at least 40 percent of students from economically disadvantaged families are eligible to use Title I funds for schoolwide programs that serve all children in the school.

Title I reaches about 12.5 million students enrolled in both public and private schools. These funds may be used for children from preschool age to high school. However, 65 percent of the students served are in grades 1 through 6; another 12 percent are in preschool and kindergarten programs.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):

AYP is a measurement of yearly progress that uses the AIMS test data. It requires that 95 percent of the students in a school take the test. Additionally, AYP mandates that all students from each ethnic and social background in that school pass the test. Therefore, if one demographic subgroup fails the test or does not have a 95% attendance rate when the test is given, the school will fail, regardless of all other students. Furthermore, AYP also takes into account elementary school attendance and high school graduation rates.

If a school has not made adequate yearly progress toward meeting state achievement standards for two consecutive years, the school must be identified as “needing improvement”. When a school is deemed “needing improvement” each student attending that school must be given the opportunity to attend another public school that made AYP. When students decide to attend another public school that made AYP, priority is given to the lowest achieving students who are economically disadvantaged (i.e. free or reduced price students).

Schools who are identified as not meeting AYP do not receive less title I funding. They are however eligible for more money from school improvement grants.

Average Daily Membership (ADM):

ADM is a student count method that determines the amount of funding school districts receive. **School districts are funded based on student enrollment, not to be confused with a student’s daily attendance.** The initial funding comes from student’s enrollment from start date of school to the 40th day of school (40th day ADM). Furthermore, districts are paid in a second cycle from the 41st day of school through the 100th day of school (100th day ADM).

100th day:

This is the 100th operating day of the school year. Also, it is the day when the count of eligible students will be determined. Finally, the 100th day is when all free and reduced price eligibility information must be reported.

Student Accountability Information System (SAIS):

SAIS is a tool for schools to submit their student and school data electronically. It was developed to increase accountability and efficiency of school funding in Arizona. This system was designed to improve school finance processes and services to LEAs. Additionally, it helps decrease the reporting burden from LEAs and improves the precision and timeliness of student counts mandatory for state and federal funding and reporting. Essentially, it provides vital information to educators, legislators, and parents about budgets, expenditures and achievement levels of schools.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP):

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility:

Free and Reduced lunch eligibility is based off household income and size. The eligibility guidelines fall within 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

